

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 21, as follows:

For this reason, the client 12 functions as a functional blocks as shown in FIG. 6 under the control of the CPU 21. A communication function 120 of the client receives messages from the server 11 and passes them to a management function 121. Alternatively, the communication function 120 receives ~~messages~~ messages from 121 and passes them to the server 11. An encryption function 123 encrypts and decrypts messages by use of a private key shared by the server 11. A management function 122 generates and analyzes messages by partially using the encryption function 123. A storage unit 124 is equivalent to the above-mentioned storage unit 28 and stores the existing (or first) license information. The storage unit 124 also stores the license information after the linkage.